

CITY OF EVERETT

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN



Progress update - June 2023

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Overview

In 2020, the City of Everett adopted a Climate Action Plan, outlining strategies and actions to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to the stabilization of the global climate. The plan builds on the City's past successes and strengths in other planning and implementation efforts. It focuses on foundational activities that set up Everett for future successes, along with those that achieve the greatest emissions reductions and create transformational change in a cost-effective and equitable manner.

The plan set greenhouse gas (GHGs) emission targets for Everett citywide, as well as targets for its own municipal operations.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals		
	By 2030	By 2050
Community-wide	50% reduction	80% reduction
Municipal operations	50% reduction	Carbon neutrality

To achieve these targets, City staff and community partners have been working together to implement climate actions organized in five focus areas: Governance, Transportation, Electrification, Green Economy, and Compact, Multimodal Land Use.

What follows is a report on the City's progress as of June 2023.

Note that the City's capacity to fully engage in implementation of the plan was severely impacted by the emergence of COVID-19 in Everett in early 2020. The public health emergency and subsequent economic downfall prompted significant reductions in the City's budget and workforce, and a prioritization of the City's most critical services and functions.

Governance

OUR GOAL:

To strengthen capacity at both the municipal and community level to support climate action.

OUR STRATEGY:

Improve staff knowledge of, and capacity for, their role in climate action.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- We've added staff resources to implement sustainability initiatives. This includes creating new Resource Conservation Manager and Resource Development and Sustainability Manager positions.
- We launched our **Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update**. This work involves the participation and input of interdepartmental teams and will include climate action components and racial/equity analysis.
- We created a [new online resource](#). This resource updates and streamlines web content to highlight the city's work on sustainability and climate action, and actions members of the community can take to support a healthy, resilient and livable city.



Transportation

OUR GOAL:

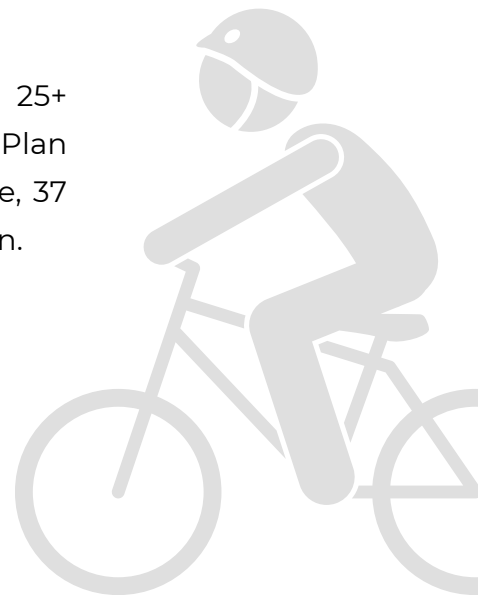
To reduce transportation-related climate pollution by driving a shift away from gasoline-powered vehicles and toward other less polluting forms of transportation.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Prioritize, incentivize and promote transportation by biking, walking and transit.
- Reduce commute trips.
- Transition to electric vehicles.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **We're reducing commute trips through continued incentivization of alternatives.** This includes offering benefits such as paid transit passes to all employees, promoting transit as an alternative to driving alone. We continue to support ridesharing within the city by offering ride-matching services on our staff website. City employees also receive an incentive for biking, carpooling, vanpooling and walking to work. Additionally, more employees are taking advantage of telecommuting opportunities.
- **We're making Everett more bike-friendly.** We've added 25+ miles of new bikeways implementing our Bicycle Master Plan (2011). We have completed, or are in progress to complete, 37 of the 68 highest priority projects in the Bicycle Master Plan. We've also ramped up education to encourage more people to bike. This includes a new Bicycle-Friendly Driver program, bicycle safety events and new self-guided online bike tours. In addition, Everett was awarded "Bicycle Friendly Community" (Bronze) status by League of American Bicyclists in 2021 and we are now working toward earning Silver or higher certification.



Transportation

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued):

- **We introduced shared mobility programs.** In 2019, we first partnered with Lime on a shared mobility program involving electric scooters. The e-scooters were very popular! The scooter program took a hiatus from 2020 to 2021 due to COVID-19, but in 2022, we brought them back with a new partnership with Bird. Since the Birds landed on Everett corners in May 2022, riders have enjoyed over 31,000 trips and traveled more than 55,000 miles. That's helped save 2,000+ gallons of fuel and 21 tons of climate pollution!
- **We're electrifying our fleet.** The City continues to expand its zero-emission fleet, especially Everett Transit. We now have 19 all-electric buses in service, representing nearly half our transit fleet. Each zero-emission bus eliminates nearly 244,000 pounds of climate pollution per year. In Spring 2023, the Federal Transit Administration recognized Everett Transit for its exemplary efforts and commitment to electrification. Also, other City departments are adopting electric vehicles, including Parks & Facilities, Police and Fire.



Electrification

OUR GOAL:

To use energy more efficiently and reduce the use of natural gas in new and existing buildings.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Mandate all-electric construction.
- Identify and implement energy-saving measures at city facilities.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

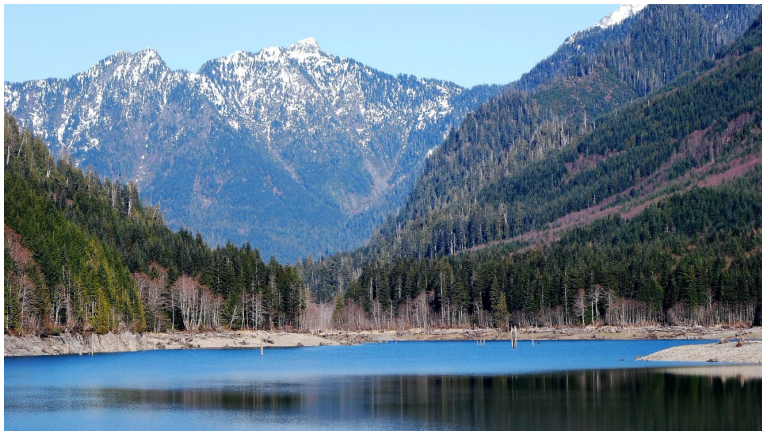
- Through our Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update process, our Planning team is evaluating options to incentivize or require all-electric buildings for new construction and major renovations projects. *Note: There may be less of a need for local mandates due to statewide developments. In April 2022, the Washington State Building Code Council approved adoption of a revised energy code that requires most new commercial buildings and large multi-family buildings to install electric heat pumps for space heating. This rule goes into effect July 1, 2023. Washington is the first state in the nation with an all-electric mandate like this.*
- We created a new full-time Resource Conservation Manager (RCM) position in 2022. The RCM is responsible for coordinating, developing and implementing policies and programs to help optimize resource consumption (water, energy, etc.) and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from city buildings and operations.



Electrification

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued):

- Our Water Pollution Control Facility participated in a Strategic Energy Management Program, which helped identify cost-effective energy-savings projects. Everett experienced the most energy savings of all program participants. The plant saved over 10,400,000 total net kilowatt hours (kWh) and avoided total costs near \$830,000 over the course of the four-year coaching program. Additionally, the plant has created a culture of energy conservation and continues to achieve savings through ongoing energy analysis and a range of technological and behavioral measures.
- Our Water Filtration Plant, working collaboratively with Cascade Energy and its Energy Smart Industrial Program, has successfully implemented cost-effective energy savings projects. This includes installing programmable thermostats, turning off lights in outbuildings, checking and adjusting unit heater setpoints and revisiting our winterization program for all buildings. Additionally, we installed dataloggers on pumps to record energy consumption over time. This data helped us identify areas of treatment processes that can be further optimized or improved. In 2023, we'll install new technology on backwash pumps which will reduce energy demands and allow for more operational control of the pumps.



Green Economy

OUR GOAL:

To position Everett as a green economy hub of the future.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Incentivize green infrastructure.
- Recruit and support green business and industry.
- Incentivize local and green purchasing for the city government and the community.
- Catalyze a sharing and reuse economy.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Through our city code, we encourage green building.** This includes a height bonus (development height incentives program) for Green Building Council certified buildings (EMC 19.22.080), as well as a landscaping plan that tilts toward native plants and guidance to include trees, especially in parking lots (heat islands).
- **We're positioning Everett as a hub for green technology.** We're home to businesses such as Helion, ZAP Energy, TerraPower and InFarm, which are forging a green economy and working toward a more sustainable future.
- **We continue to promote stormwater management techniques through our Let It Rain program.** This includes education and outreach on rainwater harvesting, discounted rain barrels and assistance with creating rain gardens, including rebates. These programs help homeowners address increased issues with heavy rain events, while also filtering pollutants running off into Puget Sound. To date, we have sold 1,500 rain barrels, which collectively have the potential to redirect over 10 million gallons of stormwater each year. We've also assisted nearly 100 homeowners with creating rain gardens.



Green Economy

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued):

- Everett remains one of only a few cities in the state to have its own solid waste handling facility. Known as the “Stockyard”, this facility allows us to recycle products from city maintenance projects and construction sites. At the Stockyard, we separate debris, rubble, sand and soil from city construction projects, sorting dirty waste from resources that can be re-used. Each year, we recycle more than 3,000 cubic yards of screened sweepings. We generate wood chips from tree and branch clippings and use them for landscape projects. The Stockyard is an excellent example of how we manage and recycle resources as we repair and build around the City.
- We revised the City’s procurement policy to add a new section on Sustainable Purchasing. Approved in December 2020, the new section (Section 4.13) encourages staff to keep sustainability in mind when purchasing or procuring outside goods and services, and to take into consideration the life cycle cost of the commodity. We also updated bid solicitation templates to include language encouraging suppliers to recycle materials.
- We continue to host events and programs to increase recycling and reduce waste. In April 2023, we hosted a recycling event at Everett Station, which encouraged residents to bring items such as old tires, appliances and electronics for recycling. Supported by the Washington State Department of Ecology, this event exceeded expectations – and collected nearly 63 tons of materials for recycling. Our Public Works team also continues to administer several successful waste reduction and recycling programs that divert an average of 85 tons from the waste stream each year. This includes recycling collection events, special event recycling and street recycling.

Green Economy

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued):

- We continue to support local agriculture. This includes the increasingly popular Everett Farmers Market, which runs May-October each year. Our library also started a new “Un-bee-leaf-able” Seed library, encouraging a community culture of embracing biodiversity and sustainability through sharing seeds, cultivating food and flowers and preserving food in local gardens.



Compact, Multimodal Land Use

OUR GOAL:

Support compact, multimodal development to create vibrant, healthy and livable neighborhoods that promote public transit and active transportation.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Create centralized activity centers with a dense and diverse mix of services, amenities, jobs and housing types in areas well-served by public transportation.
- Develop vibrant, healthy, and livable neighborhoods.
- Increase, protect and restore green spaces and natural areas within the community.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **We're supporting intentional, high-density development.** In October 2021, City Council approved the Rethink Housing Action Plan, the culmination of a multi-year initiative to develop a community-wide strategy for addressing the housing needs for current and future Everett residents. Among its elements, the plan includes recommendations for developing urban corridors and supporting high density as well as transit-oriented communities. Near term actions include revising City Code and processes to encourage Accessory Dwelling Units. The City Council adopted three new ordinances as part of a housing development incentives program, which establishes new incentive options to encourage more development of 16 units or more and more affordable housing.



Compact, Multimodal Land Use

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued):

- We're improving active transportation opportunities. We're making progress on implementing our Bicycle Master Plan. In 2023, we will begin construction of the Fleming Bicycle Corridor and add 28 lane miles of bicycle wayfinding signage to existing bike routes. We are working on designing 5.3 lane miles of new bikeways.
- We're expanding and restoring green spaces and natural areas. We're conducting a citywide tree inventory to better understand the age, variety and health of Everett's trees. We're also developing an Urban Forest Management plan to provide the framework for preserving, maintaining and growing a healthy urban forest. In 2022, City Council adopted a new Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) plan, which identifies strategies for us to continue to plan for and develop a system of parks, open spaces and trails in Everett. We also are launching Regreen Everett, a campaign to incentivize owners of stream-facing properties along North and Swamp creeks to re-tree and re-vegetate their yards.



What's Next?



The City of Everett will continue making progress on these strategies as outlined in the [Climate Action Plan](#).

Additionally, in March 2023, Mayor Franklin issued a new Climate Action & Sustainability Directive, which prioritizes action on the following five initiatives:

- Expanding and restoring green spaces and natural areas;
- Supporting citywide transition to zero-emission vehicles;
- Reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels in city-owned buildings and facilities;
- Improving neighborhood walkability and encouraging non-motorized ways for people to get around; and
- Being a model of sustainability.

In the coming years, we will focus our efforts on advancing these priority initiatives while also remaining flexible and adaptive to changing needs.



Sustainability and
Climate Action webpage



Climate Action
Plan



Climate Action
Mayoral Directive